



01

JEREMIAH 1:4-19

WHEN GOD CALLS



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

God created us, and He has amazing plans for each of our lives. Even now, God calls us to bring His goodness and love into our homes, our schools, our churches, and our communities. When God began showing Jeremiah the call on his life, Jeremiah was a bit insecure. He felt like he was too young and too inexperienced for God's call—and on his own, he was! Jeremiah had to learn that whatever God's call demands, God's hand supplies. God promised to give Jeremiah the right words to speak and to protect him from anything that would hold him back from God's call. Perhaps most encouraging was God's promise to be with Jeremiah. Nothing is impossible when God is at your side. We can live out God's call on us because He's always with us and will provide everything we need to obey Him.



CENTRAL **truth**

God supplies what His call requires.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 1:4-19

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

4 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” 6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am

only a youth.” 7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

JEREMIAH 1:11-16

9 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” 11 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.” 12 Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.” 13 The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing

away from the north.” 14 Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For behold, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, declares the LORD, and they shall come, and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls all around and against all the cities of Judah. 16 And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.

JEREMIAH 1:17-19

17 “But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. 18 And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole

land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”

01

JEREMIAH 1:4-19
CONVERSATION

questions

▶ READ JEREMIAH 1:4-8.

.01 What does it mean to be “consecrated” by God?

.02 Why might we be hesitant to follow God’s plan for our lives?

.03 What are some ways God shows His strength through our weaknesses?



HISTORY

Based on what we know about the reign of King Josiah (see v. 2), Jeremiah was called to be a prophet around 626 BC. His vision of a boiling pot symbolized the coming of Babylon from the north to judge Judah for idolatry. That judgment came by Babylon in 587 BC. This means Jeremiah’s vision was fulfilled in less than forty years! Put yourself in Jeremiah’s shoes: a simple vision became a radical reality before his eyes and the eyes of the nations. Not only did Jeremiah’s message come to pass, it came to pass before Jeremiah was even an old man. God has a vision to save people from all nations of the world (see Rev. 7:9-10) and wants to use our lives to make it a reality if we, like Jeremiah, will give our lives to God’s plans.

▶ READ JEREMIAH 1:9-16.

.04 What kinds of things might God call us to plant and build in our culture?

.05 How did God prepare Jeremiah for the work He had called him to? What are some ways God prepares us to walk in His plans for us?

.06 Why doesn't God give us all the details of His plan at once? How can we take action even when we don't have all the details?

▶ READ JEREMIAH 1:17-19.

.07 What are some reasons we might feel hesitant to share the truth of God's Word with others?

.08 Why should God's love and acceptance give us more strength and confidence than being accepted by the people around us?



CONTEXT

Spoilers ahead! In 1:18-19, God promised Jeremiah that he would never be defeated by the enemies of his message. If we look ahead, we'll see just how God came through on this promise. In 11:17-23, a group of men sought to murder Jeremiah in order to stop his message. They failed, and Jeremiah lived on to speak God's truth. In 18:18, another group attempted to publicly discredit Jeremiah in the hope that people would stop listening to him. They failed, and Jeremiah lived on to speak God's truth. In 26:7-24, priests and prophets and government officials tried to kill Jeremiah again, and guess what? They failed, as well. Even more amazingly: in 39:11-12, after Nebuchadnezzar—the most terrifying man on the planet at that time—had conquered and decimated Jerusalem, he commanded that no harm be done to Jeremiah (see 39:11-12)! Throughout the entire book of Jeremiah, what God promised in 1:18-19 would come to pass over and over again.



01

JEREMIAH 1:4-19
NOW
what?



CENTRAL truth

God supplies what His call requires.

.09 What characteristics do you see in the people in Scripture who God used to accomplish His plans? What might this mean for you?

.10 What are some things we can do when we're rejected or mistreated because of our trust in God?

.11 Everything God promised to do through Jeremiah came to pass. How should this encourage us in our walk with Christ?

.12 What can Jeremiah's example teach us about living a life that's pleasing to God? What does this look like for us in today's world?



DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 1:5

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

DWELL

Jeremiah felt inadequate to be who God called him to be—and on his own, he was! But Jeremiah would have the ultimate secret weapon for a faithful and fruitful life in God: God Himself. Nothing God calls us to is impossible when God is with us. Whatever we aren't, God always is. Whatever we lack, God always possesses. Whatever we need, whoever we need, whenever we need it, God will supply by His grace for the fulfillment of His plan. From start to finish, we're called to believe what God says and receive what God gives.



How can we, as imperfect limited people, accomplish the plans of the perfect, limitless God?



What makes you feel inadequate to fully follow God's plans for you? How can you pray for Him to give you what you need?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 1:5 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you'd like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

Tell God about any ways you feel inadequate to obey His plans. Thank Him that He formed you, knows you, and has set you apart for His plans. Thank Him that it's His grace that will empower you to live in His plans.

day 2

JEREMIAH

1:9-16

DWELL

With these visions, Jeremiah was prepped and ready to begin speaking God's message. Jeremiah wasn't given everything he'd ever need in those visions, just what he needed to get started. Like He did for Jeremiah, God will give us the revelation and resources we need to get started in His plans. As we take steps of trust and obedience, God will continue to provide all we need for all He has called us to do over our lifetimes.



What can God's preparation in Jeremiah's life teach us about His desire for us to succeed in His plans?



What kinds of attitudes or actions need to be planted and nurtured in your life? What needs to be uprooted?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 1:5 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2-3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

Thank God that His plans and desires are for your highest good. Ask Him to show you any attitudes and actions that need to be uprooted in your life and others that need to be planted and nurtured.

day 3

JEREMIAH

1:17-19

DWELL

God promised Jeremiah trials, but He also promised him triumph. The Lord said, "They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you . . . to deliver you" (v. 19). Well, that's pretty much game over for the opposition, isn't it? Jeremiah would be defied, but never defeated. He would be countered, but never conquered. Come any trial, we will always triumph in God's plan for us if we trust in the God who never loses.



Why does God allow us to go through difficult things as we follow His plans for us?



How should we pray when we're going through trials or difficult seasons? How can we encourage others who are in difficult seasons?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 1:5 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Thank God that He is with you in every trial and will use every trial to make you stronger in Him. As you go through difficult situations today and this week, ask Him to comfort and encourage you.

day 4

ACTS 4:13-14

DWELL

When Jesus first called Simon and Andrew, He didn't say, "Follow Me and make yourselves fishers of people." He said, "I will make you" (Mark 1:17). The word translated *make* in Mark 1:17 means to form, produce, cause, or accomplish something.¹ As we follow Jesus, He forms us into what He created us to be. The nation's top religious scholars were astounded by the boldness and wisdom of Peter and John. Then, they realized the reason: Peter and John had spent years with Jesus. We follow, and He forms. We become what He began as we believe.



Read Mark 1:16-18. What sticks out to you about the fishermen's response to Jesus's call to follow Him?



What are some specific ways you can follow Jesus today or this week?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 1:5 for them.

PRAY

Today, declare your trust to God that He will form you into what He created you to be for His glory and the good of the world.

¹ Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (1890), s.v. "4160. ποιέō." Bible Hub. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4160.htm>.

day 5

ACTS 26:12-19

DWELL

The apostle Paul lived an odd, yet spectacular, life—and it wasn't his idea. When Jesus spoke to Paul on the Damascus road (see Acts 9:1-9), He told Paul about God's plans for his life. Strangely, God's plans for Paul were almost the complete opposite of how he had been living up until that point. Yet, by God's grace, Paul said "yes" to God's plans. God has an important part for you to play in His eternal plans, too! He created you on purpose and for purpose. As you seek to love and honor Him, He will show you His amazing plans for you in each season of your life—including this one!



How did Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus change the direction of his life?



What can God use in your life right now to glorify Him and bring His goodness to others?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 1:5 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to show you what He can use in your life right now to glorify Him and bring His goodness to others. Ask Him to use your life for His plans.